

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated October 25, 2002, Applicants have cancelled claims 1-6 and 8-12, without prejudice, and added claims 50-66 to further define the invention.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 12 under 35 USC § 1-2(e) as being anticipated by Abele (US 5,693,014). Further the Examiner rejected claims 2-4, 10 and 11 as being obvious over Abele in view of Booth (US 5,653,690). Applicants submit that these rejections are mooted in view of the amendments to the claims. Claims 1-6 and 8-12 have been cancelled, without prejudice and claims 50-66 have been added.

Applicants submit that claims 50-66 are novel and nonobvious in view of Abele and Booth as these references neither teach nor suggest the claimed inventions. Claim 50 and the claims that depend therefrom claim a balloon catheter having an outer surface that has at least a first portion and at least a second portion, the second portion including a higher-friction section having a coefficient of friction higher than the coefficient of friction of the first portion, wherein the **higher-friction section** is radially displaced from a first position radially within the outer radial extreme of the balloon when the balloon is in the **collapsed condition**, to a second position at the radial extreme of the balloon when the balloon is in the **expanded condition**, and wherein the **first portion** is positioned at least partially at the radial extreme of the balloon when the balloon is in the **collapsed position** and at a position radially within the high-friction section when the balloon is in the **expanded condition**.

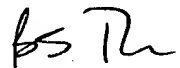
Likewise, the cited references do not teach or suggest the set of claims that depend from claim 59--a balloon catheter having at least three outer arms and at least three connecting surfaces spaced between adjacent outer arms, the at least three outer arms having a first coefficient of friction and the at least three connecting surfaces having a portion having a second coefficient of friction higher than the first coefficient of friction, where the connecting surfaces are radially displaced from a first position, radially within the outer arms when the balloon is in the collapsed condition, to a second position, at the radial extreme of the balloon when the balloon is in the expanded condition, and where the outer arms are positioned at the radial extreme of the balloon when the balloon is in the collapsed position and at a position radially within the connecting surfaces when the balloon is in the expanded condition.

Serial No. 09/223,229

Applicants hereby grant permission to charge any additional, necessary fees during the course of the prosecution of this application to Applicant's deposit account no. 10-0750/HRT-0272/BST.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 31, 2003

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